(d) whether the Government have received any petition dated, 20th October 1931 from Rev. Fr. Jacob, Alankunnapula and others of Anandapuram and Muriyad regarding the opening of a small road about 10 furlongs in length to connect their villages with the Nellayi Railway Station. If so, what action was taken regarding the same?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) In 1929.

(b) The villages adjoining this station are Parappukara, Nellayi, Muriyad and Anandapuram. Nellayi, Anandapuram and Muriyad have no direct road communication.

(c) A road is now under construction between the station and the main Chalakkudi road. This will effect communication with Nellayi village.

(d) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are not these villages, Anandapuram and Muriyad surrounded on all sides by water during the rainy season?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Are not the grievances stated in the petition legitimate and longstanding?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes, the Government have appreciated the point and they have asked me to provide funds for constructing the road in 1108.

Quarters—Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

567. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to place a statement on the table showing in respect of the quarters let out to Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer—

(a) the area of the site and the floor area of the buildings therein;

(b) the cost of buildings and site;

(c) the cost of Government furniture, if any, in the buildings;

(d) the rent charged?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—

(a) Area of the site. 1.26 acres.

Floor area of main building and outhouses 14,198 sq. ft.

(b) Buildings cost approximately Rs. 40,000 and site Rs. 25,200.

(c) About Rs. 140.

(d) Nil.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether there are any particular reasons for placing the buildings and site costing Rs. 65 thousand at the disposal of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—This house has been in the possession of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer for a very long time and that practice is being continued.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Were not the Chief Medical Officers who have officiated before the present incumbent, men who were not possessed of any quarters of their own in Ernakulam ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It might be so, but that point is rather irrelevant in the view of the Government.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Am I to understand that, because some Chief Medical Officers were in possession of these quarters, the present incumbent is also allowed to occupy the house without adverting to the other aspects of the matter ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—There is no necessity to re-consider the matter.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That is not an answer to my question. My question is: Is it because two other Chief Medical Officers were in possession of these quarters, am I to understand that the Government simply allowed the present incumbent to continue in possession without adverting to other circumstances relevant in the matter ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No other point relevant to the question has occurred to the Government as such and therefore there was no consideration of anything more relevant to the point.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether there was any particular order allowing the Chief Medical Officer to occupy the place ;

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. C A. Ouseph.—May I know whether at the time the present Chief Medical Officer was allowed to occupy the place, the attention of the Government was drawn to the fact that prior to that period there were other officers in the service, for example, the Chief Engineer, the Superintendent of Salt and Abkari and the Director of Education, who were occupying Government quarters for a long time, but when they retired, the houses occupied by them were not given to their successors.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—What the Hon'ble Member says is quite true. There were special reasons for which these houses were required by the Government and so they were taken by the Government.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Am I to understand that the Government do not stand in need of quarters at Ernakulam ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They do not at present require the house now occupied by the Chief Medical Officer.

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Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Am I not right in thinking that the Travellers' Bungalow had to be commandeered when one of the Round Table Committees came to Ernakulam for want of space?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is true that some of them were put up there.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Am I right in saying that when the Committee visited Ernakulam, the Hotel Terminus had to be requested to accommodate some of their retinue?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It was in the Hotel Terminus that some of the people were accommodated.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether there is a Guest House in Ernakulam?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Guest House is the Diwan's quarters at present.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Am I not right in thinking that there is no Guest House now at Ernakulam?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—'Guest House' is a vague term. It is used whenever it is required by the Government to accommodate guests. For that purpose we have got—for all practical and ordinary purposes—enough accommodation.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Where may I know?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We have got two buildings here, the Tank Shed Palace and the Krishna Vilas. We can also have the temporary use of any of the building at Bolghatty.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Was not the Guest House built for a particular purpose?. Can that purpose be served by the means suggested?

Rama Varmha Tapmuran.—The Guest House must have been constructed with a definite purpose in view. There is no doubt about that.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Regarding the palaces mentioned by the Secretary, am I not right in thinking that these buildings will not be available for all persons at all times?

Rama Varmha Tarmpnan.—The presumption is quite correct.

Mr.C A. Ouseph.—Does the Government intend to make arrangements for a Guest House in Ernakulam?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That Guest House will be free since a new building is proposed to be built for the Diwan.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—If another Diwan comes there will be no more Guest House available, am I not right in thinking like that? (*Laughter*).

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